

under this Act, including a recommendation on whether the reduced royalty rate for potassium from sylvite should apply after the end of the 5-year period.

TITLE VII—SODA ASH ROYALTY REDUCTION

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2004".

SEC. 702. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The combination of global competitive pressures, flat domestic demand, and spiraling costs of production threaten the future of the United States soda ash industry.

(2) Despite booming world demand, growth in United States exports of soda ash since 1997 has been flat, with most of the world's largest markets for such growth, including Brazil, the People's Republic of China, India, the countries of eastern Europe, and the Republic of South Africa, have been closed by protectionist policies.

(3) The People's Republic of China is the prime competitor of the United States in soda ash production, and recently supplanted the United States as the largest producer of soda ash in the world.

(4) Over 700 jobs have been lost in the United States soda ash industry since the Department of the Interior increased the royalty rate on soda ash produced on Federal land, in 1996.

(5) Reduction of the royalty rate on soda ash produced on Federal land will provide needed relief to the United States soda ash industry and allow it to increase export growth and competitiveness in emerging world markets, and create new jobs in the United States.

SEC. 703. REDUCTION IN ROYALTY RATE ON SODA ASH.

Notwithstanding section 102(a)(9) of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(9)), section 24 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 262), and the terms of any lease under that Act, the royalty rate on the quantity or gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land in the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be 2 percent.

SEC. 704. STUDY.

After the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, and before the end of the 5-year period beginning on that date, the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the Congress on the effects of the royalty reduction under this Act, including—

(1) the amount of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land during that 4-year period;

(2) the number of jobs that have been created or maintained during the royalty reduction period;

(3) the total amount of royalty paid to the United States on the quantity or gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market produced during that 4-year period, and the portion of such royalty paid to States; and

(4) a recommendation of whether the reduced royalty rate should apply after the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Amend the title so as to read "An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 in Pahrump, Nevada, for the construction of a post building and memorial park for use by the American Legion, other veterans' groups, and the local community, and for other purposes."

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent the Senate concur in the House amendment, with an amendment which is at the desk, concur in the House amendment to the title, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc,

and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4085) was agreed to.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendment.")

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following revision transmitted to the Senate on December 7, 2004, by the President of the United States: 1995 Revision of Radio Regulations (Treaty Document No. 108-28).

I further ask that the revision be considered as having been read the first time, that it be referred with accompanying papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed, and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the 1995 Revision of the Radio Regulations, with appendices, signed by the United States at Geneva on November 17, 1995 (the "1995 Revision"), together with declarations and reservations of the United States as contained in the final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-95). I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning these revisions.

The 1995 Revision, which was adopted at WRC-95, constitutes a revision of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations, to which the United States is a party. It provides for the simplification of the Radio Regulations, the introduction of new global mobile-satellite services, and new regulatory provisions both for non-geostationary satellites operating in the same frequency bands as geostationary satellites and for other new space services that share spectrum with the space research and terrestrial services.

Subject to the U.S. declarations and reservations mentioned above, I believe the United States should become a party to the 1995 Revision, which will facilitate the development of mobile-satellite and non-geostationary satellite orbit communication services by U.S. Government and industry, it is my hope that the Senate will take early action on this matter and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH,

The White House, December 7, 2004.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAREWELL TO ACTING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY LES BROWNLEE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor a distinguished American for his tireless, dedicated service to the U.S. Army, the U.S. Senate, and the American people. After more than four decades of national service, Acting Secretary of the Army Less Brownlee is resigning his post as Under Secretary of the Army.

Secretary Brownlee is a highly decorated veteran. He has earned the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Purple Heart during his two tours of duty in Vietnam and over 22 years on active duty.

He has also served this body with distinction for 18 years as a Hill staff member, reaching the post of staff director for the Armed Services Committee. During his time on the committee, Secretary Brownlee was the committee's principal professional staff member responsible for Army and Marine Corps programs, Special Operations Forces, and drug interdiction policy and support. In addition, he was deeply involved in policies and programs ranging from ballistic missile defense and weapons programs to strategic deterrence and naval strategy.

Most recently, during his 18 months as Acting Secretary of the Army, Secretary Brownlee has been responsible for managing the Army's \$80 billion annual budget and more than 1.3 million Active Duty, National Guard, Army Reserve, and civilian personnel. As a part of this duty, Secretary Brownlee has overseen recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping, training, and mobilization efforts.

In addition, during his tenure, the Army began the process of an extraordinary transformation to meet the threats and challenges of the 21st century. Most notably, the Army has borne the brunt of the global war on terrorism, making all Americans proud of its victories and achievements in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other far-off places around the globe.

Throughout these challenging times for the Nation and our Armed Forces, Secretary Brownlee has consistently provided strong, steady leadership for the Army as it adapts and prepares for the future. His service as Acting Secretary of the Army will undoubtedly have a profound impact on our fighting men and women and will ensure that the Army remains the world's finest fighting force for years to come.

I congratulate Secretary Brownlee on a brilliant career. I thank him for his

commitment and dedication to making America stronger and safer, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RETIREMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to commend J.B. Hudson, who is retiring after 42 outstanding years of Federal service to the United States Army.

In 1962, Mr. Hudson began his Government career at Fort Eustis, VA, as a management analyst with the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Comptroller. While pursuing his civilian career, Mr. Hudson also served as an Army reservist, 1963–1969, and continued his post graduate education earning a masters of personnel administration from George Washington University, 1969. In 1966, he accepted a position at Fort Monroe, VA, where he served as a management analyst with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Comptroller; and later, as chief, Management Improvement Branch, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Resource Management from 1973–1975.

Since 1975, Mr. Hudson has been with the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army serving in a number of senior leadership positions, including deputy director and director, studies and analyses staff, 1975–1977; director, plans and projects, 1977–1979, director, policy and plans/safety, security and support services—Washington, 1979–1995, and deputy administrative assistant, 1995–1996. In over 42 years of Government service, Mr. Hudson has received numerous honors and awards, including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.

Mr. Hudson is an extraordinary leader who recognizes that people are his most important resource. He epitomizes leadership by example, perpetuating a work environment in which harmony, resilience, and productivity reign. In the days following the terrorist attack on the Pentagon, he faced his toughest leadership challenge. Not only did he have to deal with the tragic loss of 40 staff members and the injury of many more, he also had to lead the effort of restoring calm and productivity to the agency, the Army, and the Pentagon, minimizing any disruption of support to the Army and OSD.

As the overseer of the Defense Post Office, Mr. Hudson faced the possibility of receiving mail contaminated with chemical or biological agents since the Pentagon's mail is processed through the same facility where two United States Postal Service workers died from exposure of mail contaminated with anthrax spores. Working in collaboration with Defense Department and White House officials, Mr. Hudson quickly assessed the threat and developed courses of defense.

His reputation for initiating leading-edge business practices is widely recog-

nized. His vision, adaptability, and passion for customer success have enabled him to gain recognition for the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army as a preferred support provider throughout Headquarters, Department of the Army, and Defense Department activities within the Pentagon and the National Capital Area.

Mr. Hudson has been a focused and competent defender of the Army's limited resources and is absolutely committed to achieving operational excellence. In more recent years, he consistently used his keen business acumen, technical expertise, political savvy, and resourcefulness to proficiently position the agency for the best business results.

Mr. Hudson is a superior advisor, astute negotiator, and superb administrator who can operate comfortably in all environments. His ability to bring divergent parties together and forge a common vision to achieve desired outcomes is renowned. His mastery of unique Defense Department and National Capitol Region relationships has enabled him to consistently produce quality results, even on the most contentious and complex issues. Perhaps the best examples of Mr. Hudson's ability to build coalitions and achieve results for the Army and the Department of Defense are evident in his management of the Army's executive aircraft fleet and his championing of the Pentagon Athletic Facility. In the first initiative, Mr. Hudson worked with Defense Department and Congressional representatives to acquire two state-of-the-art executive airplanes. As the overseer of the Pentagon's 55-year old athletic center, Mr. Hudson realized that the aging infrastructure of the current facility and the growing demand for fitness facilities in support of the Army's readiness mission required quick action. Once again, he negotiated prime real estate at the Pentagon for the construction of a new facility and fought for and won funding for the \$19 million project that offers a state-of-the-art facility comparable to well-known commercial fitness facilities.

Mr. Hudson's distinctive accomplishments, selflessness, dedication, commitment to excellence, and willingness to "go the extra mile" in supporting the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense and Joint Service activities in the Pentagon truly set a standard of excellence for others to follow. Mr. Hudson's distinctive accomplishments and selfless service in support of the Defense of our great nation truly set a standard of excellence worthy of emulation. I thank him on behalf of a grateful Nation and wish him well in his retirement.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise to comment on World AIDS Day, which was on December 1. The global HIV/AIDS pandemic is a humanitarian cri-

sis of horrific proportions. World AIDS Day is a day to remember the millions of lives lost to and devastated by this global pandemic and to strengthen our commitment to fight this disease.

Last year, Congress passed legislation that created the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator and pledged \$15 billion over 5 years to address the HIV/AIDS crisis. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee continues to make HIV/AIDS a priority. Charged with the oversight of the President's initiative, we will continue to hold hearings and briefings on the subject of AIDS and the progress of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Earlier this year, for instance, we held a hearing focused on the intersection of HIV/AIDS and hunger. At this hearing, Ambassador Randall Tobias, the Global AIDS Coordinator, and Jim Morris, Executive Director of the World Food Program, testified about the devastating effects that the HIV/AIDS crisis is having on agricultural workers and the food supply in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, we explored the special nutritional needs of individuals who are taking antiretroviral medication.

The theme of World AIDS Day this year, "Women, Girls, and HIV and AIDS," is an appropriate one. This disease is having a particularly devastating effect on women and girls around the world. We are just beginning to understand how women, and young girls in particular, are especially vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, due to a combination of biological, cultural, economic, social, and legal factors. Young girls constitute 75 percent of new infections in South Africa among individuals between 14 and 25 years of age. In Malawi, the National AIDS Commission has said that HIV and AIDS is killing more women than men, and that HIV-positive girls between 15 and 24 years of age outnumber males in the same age group by a six-to-one margin. Even in the United States, the disease is having a devastating effect on women and is the leading cause of death among African American women ages 25 to 34.

Not only are women and girls more vulnerable to infection, they are also shouldering much of the burden of taking care of sick and dying relatives and friends. In addition, in the vast majority of cases, they are the caretakers of the estimated 14 million children who have been orphaned by this pandemic. Grandmothers often take the responsibility of caring for grandchildren, and older female children often take care of their younger siblings.

One such young girl is Fanny Madanitsa. Fanny is a 16-year-old girl living in Malawi with her two younger sisters and a brother. Life has been difficult for Fanny and her siblings since they lost their parents to AIDS. As the oldest child, Fanny must deal with the stress of taking care of her younger siblings. They live in a modest house and share one bed. Fanny dreams of